

REMARKS

Claims 1-38 are pending
Claims 1-11, 14, 15, 17, 20-25 and 29-38 are rejected
Claims 12, 13, 16, 18, 19 and 26-28 are object to

The pending application is directed to a position sensor and a method of operating a position sensor. Claims 1, 20 and 29 are independent claims. Claim 1 recites a position sensor comprising a cable windable about a spool. The spool rotates as the cable winds and unwinds in relation to movement of an object to which the distal end of the cable is attached. The spool is also operable to travel substantially linearly in response to the rotation where a sensing means is adapted to sense the position of the spool along the linear path. The sensor of claim 20 also recites a rotatable spool. In claim 20, the cable passes through a feedpoint opening. The spool moves linearly as the cable winds and unwinds, and the cable winds around the spool with individual windings forming adjacent to but not overlapping each other. Claim 29 is directed to a method of operating a sensor comprising a rotatable spool and a cable windable about the spool as an object to be sensed moves. The claim recites the step of linearly translating the spool in correlation to the rotational movement of the spool.

The Office Action has rejected claims 1-11, 14, 15, 17, 20-25 and 29 and 30 over Glasson (6,234,061) under section 102(b). Glasson, however, fails to disclose a linearly translating spool as recited in each of the independent claims. As discussed at, for example, page 2, line 4, the linear movement of the spool permits substantial alignment of the cable with the cable feedpoint to the spool. One advantage is to avoid the tendency of cable windings to overlap as the cable winds on the spool. Thus, independent claims 1, 20 and 29 are patentably distinct from Glasson, and applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection. The remaining claims depend from one of

claims 1, 20 or 29 and are therefore allowable for the reasons stated above, as well as for additional subject matter recited therein.

The Office Action also rejected claims 31-38 under section 103(a) as obvious over Glasson as applied to claims 1 and 29. Claims 31-38 are patentable for the reasons stated above with respect to claims 1 and 29. Further, the Office Action has failed to cite a reference for the additional limitations of claims 31-38 or to state a motivation to modify Glasson. Applicant objects to the Official Notice and requests citation to a reference.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter, but declines to amend the claims at this time. As to the rejection of claim 11 for informalities, the claim is canceled herein.

For all the foregoing reasons, applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection in all respects and requests allowance of the claims.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (973) 596-4500 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 03-3839 therefor.

Respectfully submitted,



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